

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO CTF SEVEN FIVE

INFO CINCPAC

COMSENTHFLT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0620

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (RINGADOO, VEERSAAMY)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VIP VISIT TO RODRIGUES

FOR ADMIRAN WATKINS AND CAPTAIN BUCK FROM AMBASSADOR MANHARD

1. FINANCE MINISTER RINGADOO (NO. 2 IN GOM AND CURRENTLY ACTING PRIME MINISTER) RECENTLY TOLD ME HE HAS LONG BEEN INTERESTED IN MAKING BRIEF VISIT TO RODRIGUES ISLAND AND WAS ONCE INVITED TO MAKE SUCH VISIT ON BOARD FRENCH NAVY VESSEL WHICH HE DECLINED, BUT WOULD LIKE TO DO SO ON US NAVY SHIP SOMEDAY IF POSSIBLE. I TOLD HIM I WOULD ASK IF CHICAGO COULD TAKE HIM THERE FOR ONE DAY VISIT, POSSIBLY AT END OF HER VISIT TO PORT LOUIS ABOUT 21 AUG. I MADE CLEAR TO HIM THAT I HAD NO IDEA WHETHER CHICAGO COULD FIT SUCH TRIP INTO ITS CURRENT SCHEDULE. RINGADOO BELIEVED HE COULD MAKE ONE DAY VISIT TO RODRIGUES AT THAT TIME, BUT WOULD UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY IF CHICAGO UNABLE MAKE SUCH ARRANGEMENT.

2. RINGADOO IS PROBABLY BEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL FRIEND US HAS IN MAURITIUS. HE IS ALSO VERY PARTIAL TO US NAVY, ESPECIALLY SINCE NAVY DOCTORS AT BETHESDA SAVED HIS LIFE WITH SUCCESSFUL HEART SURGERY THERE 2 YEARS AGO.

3. RODRIGUES IS BEAUTIFUL UNDERDEVELOPED DEPENDENCY OF MAURITIUS. NEW RESIDENT GOVERNOR HESELTINE TOLD ME RECENTLY ON HIS DEPARTURE

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FOR ISLAND THAT HE WOULD WELCOME AMERICAN VISITORS ANYTIME AND

AFTER HE GETS SETTLED IN WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME MODEST ASSISTANCE FROM USG, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF BASIC EDUCATION (POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SOME HANDCLASP MATERIAL).

4. IF YOU COULD DIVERT CHICAGO FOR SHORT VISIT TO RODRIGUES FROM PORT LOUIS AND RETURN APPROXIMATELY 21-23 AUG, I BELIEVE BOTH USG AND USN COULD REAP CONSIDERABLE DIVIDENDS.

5. IF SUCH TRIP POSSIBLE, PERHAPS CAPT. BUCK WOULD SMUGGLE ME ABOARD ALSO.
MANHARD

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